GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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"SHE SHALL HAVE MUSIC WHEREVER SHE GOES" IN AFGHANISTAN JEWELRY

Jewelry is almost a household necessity for Afghan women. A bride receives from her prospective family-in-law a trousseau which must include a ring, a pair of bracelets, a necklace, and a pair of anklets, all ornamented with bangles dangling and tinkling. When the family cannot afford gold, they purchase silver. Dealers in jewelry and precious stones do a thriving business in every Afghan bazaar (see Bulletin No. 5).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Expedition Leaves for Siberia to See the Sun's Eclipse

EQUIPPED to make color photographs and new scientific observations never before accomplished, the Georgetown University-National Geographic Society Eclipse Expedition sailed from New York Friday, April 10, to observe the total eclipse of the sun on June 19, near Kustanai, U.S.S.R. Kustanai will be the headquarters of the expedition instead of Orenburg, 380 miles to the southwest, as originally announced.

The sun will be totally eclipsed for only 127 seconds, and the scientists are equipped to learn enough during those two-minutes-plus to justify their journeying thousands of miles. They will analyze the light of the sun's corona, visible as a pearly halo surrounding the sun only during totality.

In addition, they will photograph the eclipse in direct color, record the intensity of light at various stages as the moon slides across the sun's face, and check on the exact instant at which the eclipse begins and ends to make certain that the moon is running on the heavenly schedule. The moon's time table is less accurately known than that of many other heavenly bodies.

By Radio, Eclipse Will Be a Day Ahead of Time

Plans are being made to broadcast from Siberia a description of the eclipse, and of the astronomers' reactions to it, by short-wave radio apparatus of the National Broadcasting Company, direct to the United States.

An interesting feature of the eclipse broadcast will be that, while it will take place at the observing station near Kustanai, Siberia, at 8:40 a.m., Standard time, June 19, the corresponding time in the United States will be 11:40 p.m., Eastern Standard time, June 18, the preceding day. Radio listeners, hearing the broadcast on June 18 in the evening, will be listening to an event that is occurring in Russia the following morning.

The expedition sailed on the steamship *American Farmer* to England, and from there will proceed on a Russian steamer for Leningrad. From Leningrad the expedition will travel by rail, via Moscow, to Kustanai, which is just east of the Ural Mountains, northeast of the Caspian Sea, and 1,300 miles from Leningrad.

Four Tons of Instruments To Be Used

Kustanai is within the path of totality of the eclipse, which will sweep across the southeastern corner of Europe and the breadth of Asia on June 19 from the Mediterranean Sea to northern Japan. Arriving about the middle of May at Kustanai, the party will spend a month mounting instruments, and rehearsing the intensive program that will be carried out during the 127 seconds which will be the duration of totality at the observing station three miles south of the city.

Weather facts, based upon observations during several years past, and published by the Central Geophysical Observatory at Leningrad, show a high probability of clear weather in the vicinity of Kustanai. The government of the U. S. S. R. has cooperated generously with the expedition in supplying meteorological data, arranging transport for the personnel and their four tons of scientific instruments, and making available living quarters in Kustanai and an observing station nearby.

The eclipse, it would seem, is cooperating generously with the government of the U. S. S. R. in its efforts to educate peasants. Sun, moon, and stars, to the

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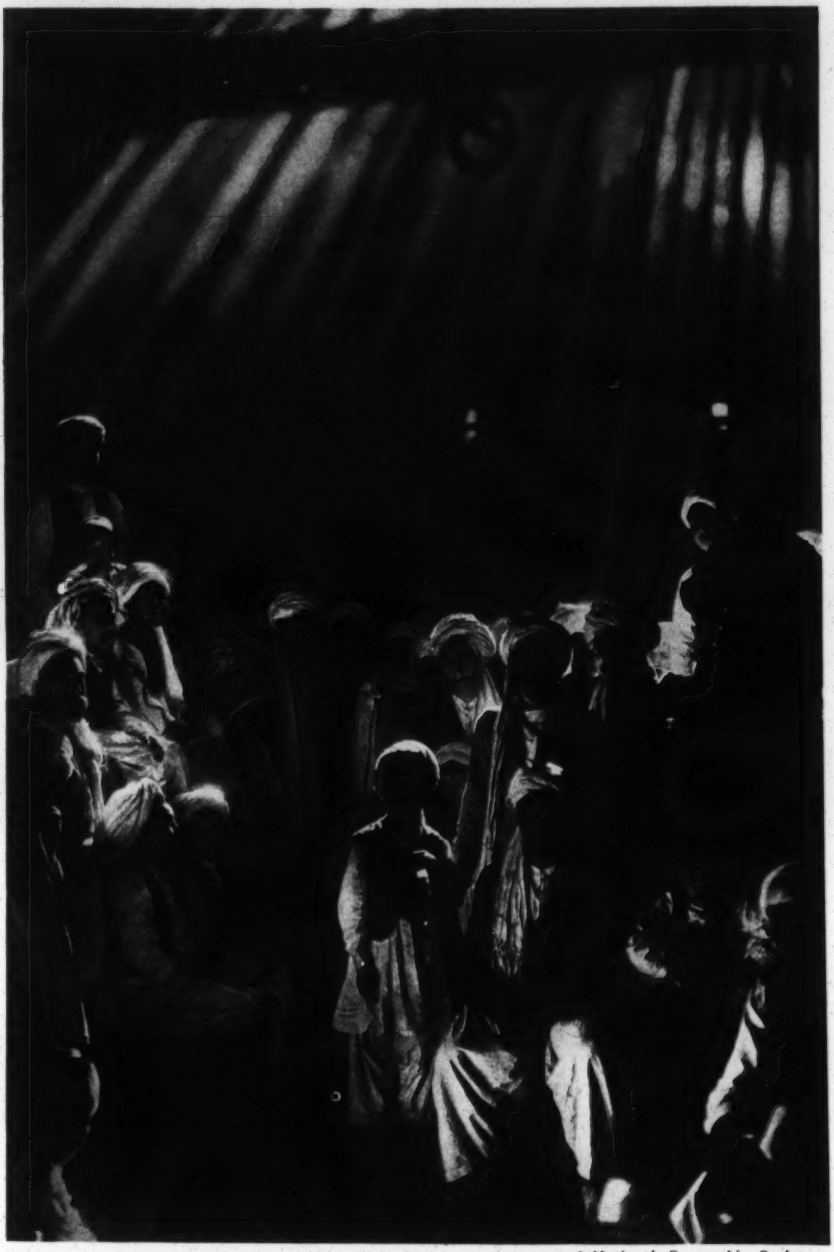

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IT MIGHT BE A STAGE SETTING, BUT IT IS REALLY A WAREHOUSE IN THE HERAT BAZAAR

The fiercely independent Afghan has no respect for laws as such, but he obeys these three: the law of Islam, the law of hospitality to strangers, and the law of vendetta to tribal enemies. This group in Herat courteously posed for the photographer of the Citroën-Haardt Trans-Asiatic Expedition, a stranger whose language they could not understand (see Bulletin No. 5).

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Lake Tana: Ethiopian Birthplace of the Blue Nile

ITALIAN troops have arrived at Lake Tana and have added one more twist to the lake's entangled foreign associations. This body of water has for years been an important factor in the lives of Ethiopian natives, British diplomats and engineers, and Egyptian and Sudanese farmers.

Lake Tana, about one-eighth the size of Lake Erie, gives rise to the Blue Nile River, which, joining the White Nile at Khartoum in the Sudan, furnishes the needed irrigation water and rich silt for coaxing river valley areas in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Egypt into flower.

Near Sennar (east-central Anglo-Egyptian Sudan), the Blue Nile has been dammed, and water from the reservoir flows through a network of large and small canals across the Gezira. This triangular plain, wedged between the White and Blue Niles, is one of the most fertile areas in Africa, abundantly producing grain and long staple cotton.

Ethiopian Waters Build Up Egyptian Lands

During the rainy season, streams of the Ethiopian plateau flowing into Lake Tana cause the lake level to rise and the water to overflow with increased volume into the Blue Nile.

Contributions of water from the Blue and the White Niles to the Nile flood may be compared to scales perpetually seesawing in balance. The Blue Nile begins to swell in May, and increases until in September it provides about 69 per cent of the water of the Nile flood. Its waters, then chocolate brown with sediment, rush with such force that, at Khartoum, where it joins the greenish-gray White Nile, it dams up that river, forcing it to hold back its waters.

After the Blue Nile reaches its flood height, it falls rapidly, and, as it slackens, the waters of the White Nile are liberated. By April and May the White Nile contributes 85 per cent of the Nile water, and the Blue Nile takes a back seat.

Treaties, surveyors, and engineers have been preparing during recent years for an additional dam, to be located at the Blue Nile's outlet from Lake Tana. A treaty in 1906 recognized Great Britain's right to regulate the waters of Lake Tana and the Blue Nile. The British irrigation project is important in view of the fact that Egypt, for instance, has only 12,000 square miles of arable land in its area of 350,000, and all of this 12,000 square miles is dependent upon Nile water.

Red Pepper Sauce for Raw Meat

Lake Tana is roughly heart-shaped and is about 40 miles long by 30 miles wide. It is sunk in a depression 2,500 feet deep in the Ethiopian plateau. The lake probably derived its name (sometimes spelled Tsana) from one of the many small islands that dot its surface: Tana Kirkos Island. On this island, the Ark of the Covenant, when brought from Jerusalem by Menelik I, is supposed to have been kept for several centuries before being taken to Aksum.

Religion still casts a spell over Lake Tana. Floating out over its green waves come quavering tones of bells from the numerous churches and old monasteries on the islands. Some of these were built by Portuguese Jesuits in the 17th century.

The shores of the lake are extremely varied in character. In some places hills extend down to the water's edge. In others, there are marshes and stretches of grassy plains where jackals and foxes prowl, and wild geese and hornbills feed.

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uninstructed in remote areas of that vast country, are capricious factors governing luck and misfortune. For the sun to grow black would mean a frightful disaster, perhaps the end of the world. To save its peasants from the terrors which an eclipse may inspire, the U. S. S. R. is preparing them with lectures, educational motion pictures, and pamphlets. Millions of visitors to the Moscow planetarium have been shown just what will happen.

Scientists from the world over are flocking to Siberia for box seats at Nature's big astronomical show. In addition to the Georgetown University-National Geographic expedition, the United States will also send one from Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From England, continental Europe, and Japan, groups will converge on Siberia, as well as several from the U.S.S.R.

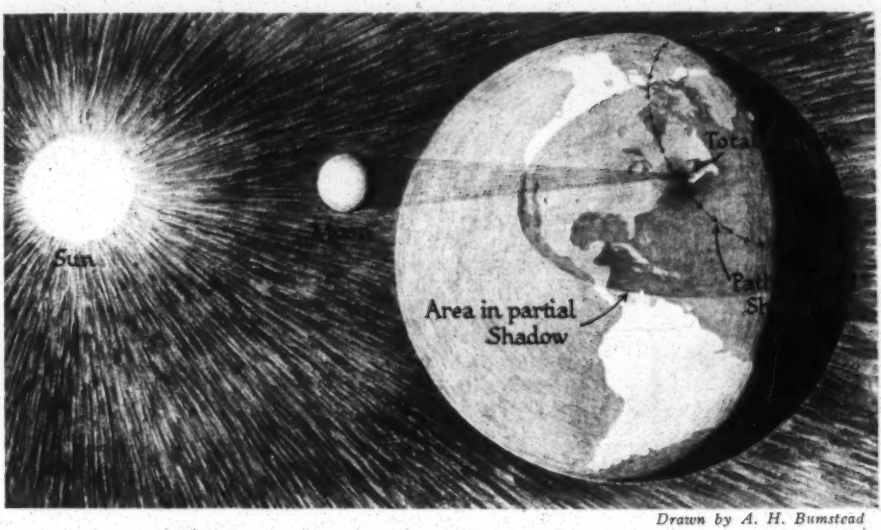
This is not the first time the National Geographic Society has been sun-minded. During the eclipse of August 31, 1932, The Society cooperated with the U. S. Army Air Corps in arranging a flight five miles into the air, during which the first photographs were made of the moon's shadow on the earth by Captain Albert W. Stevens of stratosphere fame.

Note: Additional material about previous eclipses of the sun, also about the section of Siberia from which the Georgetown University-National Geographic Expedition will view the 1936 eclipse, will be found in the following: "Observing a Total Eclipse of the Sun" and "Photographing the Eclipse of 1932 from the Air," *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1932; "Russia of the Hour," November, 1926; "Interviewing the Stars," January, 1925; "Western Siberia and the Altai Mountains," May, 1921; and "Helium, the New Balloon Gas," May, 1919.

The path of the eclipse, from the Mediterranean to the Pacific, can be traced on the Map of Asia, issued as a supplement to the *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1933. Additional copies of this map can be secured, postage paid in the United States, for 50 cents (paper) and 75 cents (linen).

See also the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Expedition To Study Sun's Eclipse in Asia," week of January 20, 1936.

Bulletin No. 1, April 27, 1936.



Drawn by A. H. Bumstead

PORTRAIT OF AN ECLIPSE, SOMEWHAT UNDER LIFE SIZE

The line of arrows indicates the area from which the sun appears to be completely covered by the moon, as it was observed during the North American eclipse of August 31, 1932. In the eclipse of June 19, 1936, this line will swoop across the U.S.S.R., and scientists must travel to Siberia for a ringside seat. This diagram is not drawn to scale. To indicate distances, as well as the size of the sun in comparison with an earth of this dimension, would require a drawing a half-mile long.

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A New Cathedral Age Dawns

COMPLETION of its gold-plated bronze doors, two tons of masterpieces in carving and casting, gives a magnificent entrance to New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine. It typifies also the world's entrance into a new Cathedral age.

Modern means are being used to transport and improve materials for activities recalling the cathedral building of the Middle Ages, often considered the symbol of "the aspiration of man at the moment when man's aspirations were highest."

Architects are poring over blueprints, cranes are lifting huge blocks of stone into position, and artisans are busy chiseling out statues and delicate stone tracery as new temples rear their pinnacles skyward.

Two for Baltimore

When finished, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine will rank third on the list of the world's largest, seating 10,000 people, with standing room for 40,000 more. Its exterior length, 601 feet, is exceeded only by St. Peter's in Rome, which is 718 feet long. Distinctive features are the seven Chapels of the Tongues, in which services are occasionally held in foreign languages.

In Washington, D. C., work is going forward on a great edifice of 14th century Gothic architecture. High above the city, on Mt. St. Alban, rise the lofty gray walls of the Washington Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul. Its central tower will rise 262 feet, and its lofty site will lift it 107 feet above the Washington Monument's top. Among outstanding features of this superb structure is the Bethlehem Chapel, containing the tombs of Woodrow Wilson and Admiral Dewey.

Baltimore is to have two new cathedrals. The Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be Romanesque, with a nave seating 2,500 people; its twin towers will recall Nôtre Dame of Paris. The Protestant Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation, of which only the procathedral is built at present, will be a limestone edifice suggestive of English and French Gothic types.

Lighted Cross a Beacon to Ships

Ground was broken in the summer of 1932 in Upper Roxborough, Philadelphia, for the Cathedral Church of Christ. Built in a free Gothic style, it will be 460 feet long, and will have a carillon tower 220 feet high.

After the fire of 1906 had swept the homes from the crest of Nob Hill, San Francisco, the cornerstone was laid there in 1910 for Grace Cathedral, to be the largest of its kind west of the Mississippi. This partially constructed 340-foot edifice is being built chiefly of steel-reinforced concrete. The lighted cross on its central tower will be the highest point on the city skyline, and visible for miles to ships entering San Francisco Bay.

Other cathedrals being projected in the United States are St. Philip's in Atlanta, Georgia; Trinity, in Trenton, New Jersey; St. Mark's, in Seattle; and the partly finished Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, in Spokane, Washington.

Spain is building two new cathedrals. In the suburbs of Madrid stand the foundations and shrine of La Almudena. In Barcelona, the shrine and two towers of La Sagrada Familia have been completed.

England, home of many ancient cathedrals, is building still. Guildford in Surrey, with three small churches of ancient origin, has started work on the site of a new cathedral a mile outside of town on Stagg's Hill.

An Anglican cathedral that will be one of the world's largest is being erected

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On the plains, among palm trees and acacias, huddle native villages of thatched huts, whose inhabitants are chiefly farmers and cattle raisers. They consume amazing quantities of red peppers. They dip bread in powdered pepper, mix the pepper in drinks, and especially relish it in sauce on raw meat.

In the marshes grow papyrus plants, which the natives fashion into inferior string and cumbersome rafts (see illustration, below). Portions of the lake shores are favorite haunts of hippopotamuses, which Waito tribesmen kill for food.

Note: Photographs of and references to Lake Tana, Egypt, and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan are contained in the following: "Traveling in the Highlands of Ethiopia," *National Geographic Magazine*, September, 1935; "Life's Tenor in Ethiopia," June, 1935; "Unbeliever Joins the Hadj," June, 1934; "Coronation Days in Addis Ababa," June, 1931; "Two Fighting Tribes of the Sudan," October, 1929; "Nature and Man in Ethiopia," August, 1928; "The Land of Egypt," March, 1926; "A Caravan Journey Through Abyssinia (Ethiopia)," June, 1925; and "Along the Nile Through Egypt and the Sudan," October, 1922.

Bulletin No. 2, April 27, 1936.

Fill the Pocket of Your Cumulative Index

Publication of the "1935 Supplement" brings up to date the new "Cumulative Index," listing articles, pictures, and maps in the *National Geographic Magazine* between January, 1889, and December, 1934. "The Cumulative Index," in paper binding, costs $1.00 and in cloth binding $1.50, postage included. "The Supplement," just released, which covers the year 1935, fits into the envelope pocket provided at the back of the Cumulative Index. Its price is 25 cents, postpaid in U. S. and its Possessions. These can be obtained only from the *National Geographic Society*, Washington, D. C.

Photograph from Leo B. Roberts

A TWO-MAN-POWER TANKWA ON LAKE TANA

The *tankwa* is a canoe-shaped raft of papyrus reeds tied together with vines and propelled by poles through shallow water near the shore. If papyrus is kin to paper, papyrus boats are kin to blotting paper, for they soak up enough water to sink them after about a week's use. Made from materials close at hand, the *tankwas* resemble *balsas*, made of reeds, used by natives on Lake Titicaca, South America.

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Vicksburg Relives Its Historic Past

VICKSBURG, busy Mississippi River port, recently had a Hospitality Week, during which ante-bellum mansions and gardens were opened to the public. Features of the celebration included tours through Vicksburg National Military Park, trips over flower-bordered trails to historic sites near the city, and revival of an old showboat play.

Vicksburg, third largest city in Mississippi, lies on a canal connecting the Yazoo River with the Mississippi River and is situated about halfway between Memphis and New Orleans. Occupying a commanding position on the river, Vicksburg is a natural gateway to the rich Mississippi delta country.

Along the waterfront streets spread the cottonseed oil mills, planing mills, railroad shops, foundries, and machine shops, which are tangible evidence of Vicksburg's commercial importance today as an industrial center and wholesale distributing point.

Houseboat Colonies on the Levee

The city's residential section, marked by well-kept, shady streets, looks down on the activity of the waterfront. High up in Walnut Hills are picturesque old houses, some of which served as headquarters for Confederate generals during the Civil War.

One of the largest houseboat colonies along the Mississippi River is located at Vicksburg. Stakes driven into the sides of the levee hold the little boats secure. As the water rises, the houseboat people drive these stakes higher and higher up the banks, until, in flood water, they can look over the railroad track, which parallels the levee, and the lower ends of streets which extend abruptly up the steep hill beyond.

Of interest to the sightseer is the Vicksburg Military Park, which covers more than 1,300 acres and has about 32 miles of driveways. It marks the ground on which Federal and Confederate forces battled in the summer of 1863. The Park forms a great crescent completely surrounding Vicksburg on three sides, its tips touching the waterfront at points just north and south of the city. Connected with the park is Vicksburg National Cemetery, second in size only to Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac from Washington, D. C.

Canal From Yazoo River

In 1876 the Mississippi River cut closer to Vicksburg, then receded, leaving a shallow muddy channel separating the city from what was literally its life stream. Discerning citizens pointed out that it would be easy to direct the waters of the Yazoo into the bed cut by the Mississippi, and thus form a canal navigable for river traffic. Today the canal is lined with a concrete wall which protects waterfront streets from overflow in times of flood.

Long an important terminal for steamboat lines operating between Memphis and New Orleans, Vicksburg today lies at the crossroads of two great national highways. One, Route 61, extends north from New Orleans to Port Arthur, Canada; the other, Route 80, links Savannah, Georgia, with San Diego, California. A link in the latter transcontinental route, the first rail and highway bridge across the Mississippi south of Memphis was completed at Vicksburg in 1930. The

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in Liverpool. Situated on St. James Mount, this huge Gothic structure dominates the city and is a landmark to ships on the River Mersey. Brownlow Hill, Liverpool, has been chosen as the place for an immense Roman Catholic cathedral, in which 10,000 worshipers will be able to see the high altar at the same time.

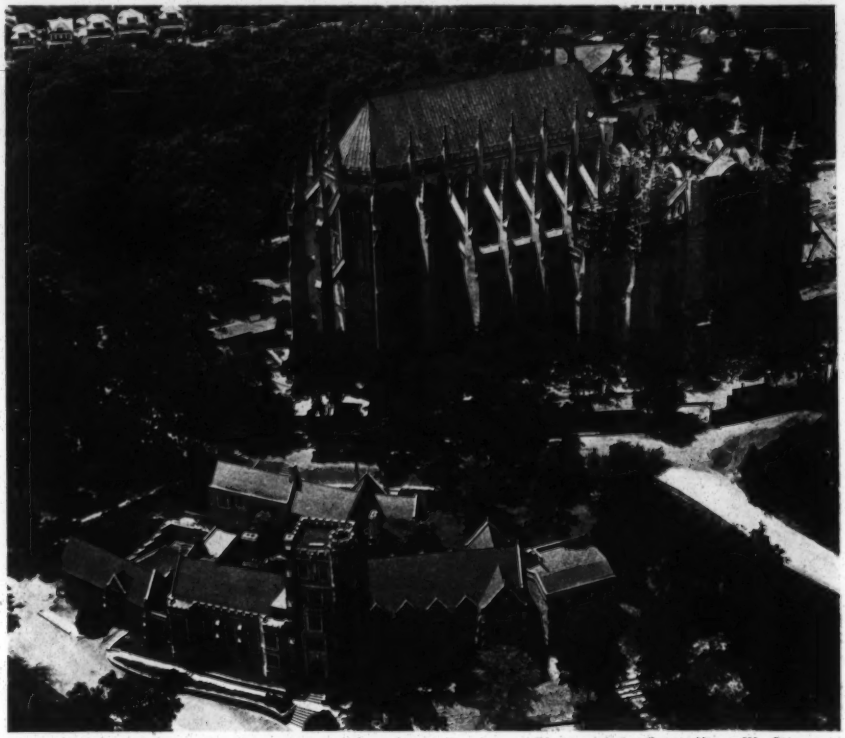
In Victoria, British Columbia, Christ Church Cathedral was completed in 1932. In the south aisle, children's eyes may wander to the robin and its nest carved in stone on the capital of one of the columns. It commemorates the trustfulness of a pair of robins that, during construction of the building, nested and reared their young on the scaffolding, unafraid of the workmen.

At the other side of the globe, British choristers are singing in St. George's Cathedral, Capetown, South Africa, the foundation stone of which was laid in 1901 by the late King George V. In this French Gothic building of warm yellow stone, windows are narrow and placed high to avoid the glare of African sunshine. In Nairobi, capital of Kenya Colony, East Africa, the Cathedral of the Highlands is being reared. In Suva, Fiji Islands, a site has recently been purchased and plans are being drafted for an Anglican cathedral.

Christmas night, 1932, saw the dedication in La Paz, Bolivia, of a cathedral which had been under construction for nearly a century.

Note: "Cathedrals of the Old and New World," in the July, 1922, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*, includes fifty black and white photographs of famous churches.

Bulletin No. 3, April 27, 1936.



Photograph by Capt. Albert W. Stevens

GOTHIC TOWERS SOAR OVER THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

No longer shrouded with scaffolding as shown in this picture, the Washington Cathedral has completed the northern transept, which is now resplendent with the jewel tones of stained glass in the great rose window and the three smaller windows beneath. The College of Preachers (lower left) and the St. Alban's School for Boys (top right) are included in the 67 acres of the Cathedral Close on Mount St. Alban.

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Afghanistan Turns West—But Not Western

AFGHANISTAN and the United States have at last agreed to exchange calling cards. For the first time Uncle Sam's diplomatic representative will be officially welcomed into Central Asia's forbidden kingdom, where earlier visitors who ventured beyond the "No Trespassing" sign at Khyber Pass were often greeted with a bit of expert sniping from the home-made shotguns of bandit hillmen.

The agreement just reached between the two countries is a further step in Afghanistan's cautious trend toward improvements from the West. Progress is slow, for the Afghans are an old people, and like all old people prefer to adopt changes only when—and if—they are demonstrated as changes for the better.

Chairs, buttons, matches, and knives and forks, however, are gradually filtering into the land where the Law of the Prophet has not yet given way to such maxims as "Time is Money." The first few airplanes have arrived, swinging in through Khyber Pass by camel caravan. There are several hundred miles of highway, quite passable in good weather, and a few automobiles, but the blacksmith has not yet felt competition from the garage mechanic. There is no railroad.

Country Is Perched Among Peaks

Dotted with peaks a mile higher than North America's highest, Afghanistan is isolated as an eagle's aerie. Its natives are fierce and swift as eagles. Its general elevation is somewhat less than a mile above sea level. Crumpled up in the lofty Hindu Kush range, it is about the shape of West Virginia and ten times as large, more closely approaching the size of Texas.

Fertile valleys relieve the country's barrenness of snow-capped peaks and parched plains. Occasional oases support huddles of fortified houses of sunbaked mud bricks in the desert. Water sources may be eighty miles apart. Irrigation, by cleverly built underground channels as well as by open canals, brings life to over 100,000 acres. Thus Afghanistan is able to feed its nomadic masses with wheat and barley, rice and fruit, needing to import only tea and sugar.

More important than any other animal except the busy burdened camel, the fat-tailed sheep is a whole natural resource in itself. It furnishes wool and skin for warmth, fat as a butter substitute, and mutton for the Mohammedan population forbidden to eat beef.

Its Rivers Meet Strange Ends

Afghan rivers follow strange courses to unexpected ends. The Oxus, the only one navigable, has changed its course twice to empty into the Aral instead of the Caspian Sea. The Helmand, separating Afghan territory from Iran (Persia), has also changed its course, giving Afghans more ground and Persians ground for complaint. It is patriotic to the end, making its way into an Afghan marsh to die, the inland sea Hamun-i, which occasionally dries up. The Hari wanders off and is lost in the flat black sands of the Kara Kum desert.

There are many things no one can explain or predict about Afghanistan. How many people thrive in its rocky fastnesses—seven million, ten, twelve? Are these wild men of the mountains really the lost tribes of Israel, descendants of King Saul carried off into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar? Too close questioning evokes the polite rebuke, "Allah knows best," implying that it is unbecoming for mere men to pry into such affairs.

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strategic position of Vicksburg was recognized as early as 1791 by the Spaniards when they erected their stronghold, Fort Nogales, on that site.

In 1796, by the Treaty of San Lorenzo el Real, part of what is now the State of Mississippi was acquired by the United States, and Nogales came under the American standard.

Named for Rich Planter

In 1825 it was chartered as a city and named in honor of Newit Vick, a rich planter, on whose land part of the town was laid out.

Vicksburg attained prominence as a river port about 1830, and by 1860 it was a prosperous little city of about 5,000 inhabitants. During the Civil War, Vicksburg became a prize sought by both North and South, since it commanded the commerce of the mid-Mississippi River region.

This "Gibraltar of the Confederacy" was attacked by a major force first in 1862, under the command of General Sherman. The Union army was repulsed after both sides had suffered heavy losses. In 1863, General Grant and Admiral Farragut led combined Union forces which took Vicksburg after a siege of 47 days. During this time civilians as well as soldiers were forced to live in caves hollowed in the hills on which the greater part of the city lies, and to eat mule meat and parched corn.

Note: See also "Great Mississippi Flood of 1927," *National Geographic Magazine*, September, 1927; "Map-Changing Medicine," September, 1922; "The Origin of American State Names," August, 1920; and "When the Father of Waters Goes on a Rampage," April, 1920.

Bulletin No. 4, April 27, 1936.

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VICKSBURG HAS HAD ITS HEROIC MOMENTS

While other regions are recovering from floods and tornadoes, Vicksburg recalls its sufferings in the Civil War and in the Mississippi flood of 1927. In 1927 its Confederate Cemetery became a refugee camp with a hospital tent and a new generation of "veterans." Vicksburg is general headquarters for the government's flood control work on the Mississippi River and maintains an experiment station for study of flood control.

It is known, however, that Afghanistan has been the "corridor of the world," the mouth of the funnel through which poured Asia's hordes to loot the wealth of India. Alexander the Great added it to his collection of empires as the key to Central Asia. Through here swept Genghis Khan and Tamerlane by the Khyber Pass into India. By the same route in the opposite direction came unnoticed a quieter victor, Buddhism, leaving a trail of colossal rock-cut statues and shrines.

The Citroën-Haardt Trans-Asiatic Expedition, with a representative of the National Geographic Society, was permitted to pass peaceably over this parade ground of overthrown empires, 1931 (see illustration, page 2). It entered by a pass from Iran on the west, took the southern route to see the settlements and avoid the mountains, and left by the Khyber Pass.

When not cowed into submission by a strong ruler from invading Arabs, Persians, Mongols, or Huns, Afghanistan has had its troubles between its own tribes.

So Afghanistan, with efforts toward a unified government, is not quite what it used to be. The temperature still bounces up and down, varying 25 degrees in fewer hours. A third of the people are still nomads, moving whole villages by camel caravan to winter on India's plains. The farmer still operates his plow by man-power, cuts his crop with a handsickle, and carries his harvest home on his back. The main cities are Kandahar, Herat, and Kabul, the capital. To Kabul, especially, have come the western ways within the past decade.

Note: The first color photographs of this strange nation, and other valuable data, will be found in the following: "Afghanistan Makes Haste Slowly," *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1933; "Citroën Trans-Asiatic Expedition Reaches Kashmir," October, 1931; "The World's Greatest Overland Explorer (Marco Polo)," November, 1928; "Every-Day Life in Afghanistan," January, 1921; and "The Geography of Medicine," September, 1917.

Bulletin No. 5, April 27, 1936.

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AN AFGHAN TEA PARTY IS MOSTLY FRUIT

At Kandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city, the Mayor entertained members of the Citroën-Haardt Trans-Asiatic Expedition at a tea consisting almost entirely of fruit. The region is richly productive of apricots, plums, nectarines, cherries, mulberries, gooseberries, cucumbers, pistaschio nuts, and almonds, and naturally fruits are the basis of the Afghan diet. The castor oil bean also grows plentifully, but it is used for lubrication and not medication.

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